

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 3, 2008. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been amended. New claim 30 has been added.

In this response, Applicant amended selected claims to provide a more complete scope of protection for the present invention and present clarifying remarks believed to address the Examiner's rejections and place the claims in condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0130473) ("Doyle") in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0191059) ("Jones").

Doyle was deemed to disclose the following claim limitations: a seal member comprising a substantially V-shaped first surface extending between opposed side walls of the seal member having a first vertex and a substantially V-shaped second surface having a second vertex, the second surface extends between the opposite side walls of the seal member, wherein the first surface faces away from the second surface wherein the surfaces are on opposite exterior sides of the member, and the surfaces are adapted to be compressed when the seal member is installed in the outlet passage [0019].

Doyle was acknowledged to not disclose a housing having a chamber formed therein for receiving ink and a surface including an outlet passage communicating with the chamber and through which ink is dispensed; and an air impermeable, non-porous seal member; a seal member formed of a rubber; polyvinyl chloride (PVC); thermoplastic rubber; or silicone rubber. Doyle was also acknowledged to not disclose a seal member including a thin membrane extending across the first surface of the seal member, including the thin membrane adapted to be selectively pierced by a needle of an associated printer; the seal member having a substantially disk shape, or the outlet passage including a counterbore at an outer terminal end that receives the disk-shaped

seal member therein. Jones were deemed to teach each of the above-mentioned limitations.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the substantially V-shaped first surface extends from a first end of a first sidewall of the seal member, and the substantially V-shaped second surface extends from a second opposite end of the first sidewall. Referring to the present specification, the sidewall is wall 59, and the ends are edges 56b and 57b. Doyle does not teach two substantially V-shaped surfaces extending from opposite ends of the same sidewall. Rather, Doyle teaches a circular ridge 23 formed between top walls 13, 15 of the seal and a second ridge formed between bottom walls 19, 21 of the seal. Neither of the ridges extends completely to the same sidewall. Jones does not teach any such substantially V-shaped surfaces on a seal. Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 7-14 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. New claim 30 calls for the first sidewall to be tapered. Claim 30 depends from claim 1 and is in condition for allowance for the reasons given for claim 1.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle and Jones, and further in view of Putman et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0081085) ("Putman").

While Jones was acknowledged to not specifically teach linear compression, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that if the seal was held in place by the cap between the cap and the outlet port, there would be some type of compression as the seal is being held in place between the two objects. The Examiner acknowledged that Doyle does not disclose a cap member having a recess for receiving the outlet passage or a cap formed of plastic. Putman were deemed to disclose the above-mentioned limitations.

Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form including the limitation of a substantially V-shaped first surface extends from a first end of a first sidewall of the seal member, and a substantially V-shaped second surface extends from a second opposite end of the first sidewall. Doyle does not teach two substantially V-shaped surfaces extending from opposite ends of the same sidewall. Rather, Doyle teaches a circular ridge 23 on top wall 13 of the seal and a second ridge formed on a bottom wall 19 of the

seal. Jones and Putman simply do not teach any such substantially V-shaped surfaces on a seal. Accordingly, claim 4, and claims 3, 5 and 6 dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle and Jones, and further in view of Qingguo et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0128257) ("Qingguo") and Putman.

Doyle was acknowledged to not disclose an outer terminal end of the outlet passage having a generally triangular-shaped rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding the cap to the outlet passage. Qingguo was deemed to teach this limitation. Putman were deemed to teach an outer terminal end of the outlet passage having a rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding the cap to the outlet passage.

Claim 4 has been amended to be in independent form and recites that the substantially V-shaped first surface extends from a first end of a first sidewall of the seal member, and the substantially V-shaped second surface extends from a second opposite end of the first sidewall. As previously stated, Doyle does not teach two substantially V-shaped surfaces extending from opposite ends of the said sidewall. Rather, Doyle teaches a circular ridge 23 on top wall 13 of the seal and a second ridge formed on a bottom wall 19 of the seal. Jones, Putman and Qingguo, alone or in combination, do not teach any such substantially V-shaped surfaces on a seal. Accordingly, claim 4, and claims 3, 5 and 6 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters have been addressed. For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (i.e., claims 1, 3-14 and 30) are now in condition for allowance.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

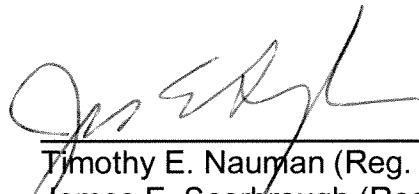
In the event the Examiner believes a telephone call would expedite prosecution, he is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP

Date:

9/3/08



Timothy E. Nauman (Reg. No. 32,283)
James E. Scarbrough (Reg. No. 47,056)
1100 Superior Avenue - 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582 (phone)
(216) 241-1666 (facsimile)